

Claim 78. A device for wrapping a bale of harvested agricultural produce which comprises wrapping means for wrapping at least one layer of a film of material completely around said bale with said film having its interior layer in direct contact with substantially the entire outer surface of said bale and label applying means for automatically applying a label to said film comprising identifying information relating to said bale, said wrapping means comprising a rotary wrapping table, said label applying means being arranged on said rotating wrapping table.

Claim 79. A device in accordance with Claim 78, wherein said wrapping means comprises a film stretching device, said label applying means being arranged to apply said label on said film that has been stretched by said film stretching device.

Claim 80. A device for wrapping a bale of harvested agricultural produce which comprises wrapping means for wrapping at least one layer of a film of material completely around said bale with said film having its interior layer in direct contact with substantially the entire outer surface of said bale and label applying means for automatically applying a label to said film comprising identifying information relating to said bale, and detaching means for detaching said label from said film by rotating said bale.

Claim 81. A device for wrapping a bale of harvested agricultural produce which comprises wrapping means for wrapping at least one layer of a film of material completely around said bale with said film having its interior layer in direct contact with substantially the entire outer surface of said bale and label applying means for automatically applying a label to said film comprising identifying information relating to said bale, and a tape containing a plurality of said labels which is moved into contact with said film by said label applying means.

Claim 82. A device in accordance with Claim 81, wherein said label applying means comprises mechanical means for moving said tape.

~~14~~ Claim 83. A device in accordance with Claim 81, wherein said label applying means comprises an electric energized means for moving said tape.

~~15~~ Claim 84. A device in accordance with Claim 81, wherein said label applying means comprises hydraulic means for moving said tape.

~~16~~ Claim 85. A device in accordance with Claim 81, wherein said label applying means comprises pneumatically powered means for moving said tape.

~~17~~ Claim 86. A device in accordance with Claim 81, wherein said label applying means comprises a power-take-off means of a tractor for moving said tape.

~~21~~ Claim 87. A method of wrapping a bale composed of an agricultural product which comprises the steps of completely wrapping said bale with a film so that the interior of said bale is substantially in continuous contact with the entire surface of said bale, and applying identifying information to said film which relates uniquely to the identity of said bale including the manner said bale is wrapped with said film, said film being cut in a cutting step which takes place after said identifying information has been applied to said film, said applying of said identifying information to said film being coordinated with the step of cutting said film.

Claim 88. A method of wrapping a bale composed of an agricultural product which comprises the steps of completely wrapping said bale with a film so that the interior of said film is substantially in continuous contact with the entire surface of said bale, and applying identifying information to said film which relates uniquely to the identity of said bale including the manner said bale is wrapped with said film, said identifying information being applied to said film while said bale is being wrapped.

~~29~~ Claim 89. A method of wrapping a bale composed of an agricultural product which comprises the steps of completely wrapping said bale with a film so that the interior of said film is substantially in continuous contact with the entire surface of said bale, and applying

identifying information to said film which relates uniquely to the identity of said bale including the manner said bale is wrapped with said film, said identifying information comprising electronic identification with which said bale can be located which is sensitive to a satellite navigation system.

Claim 90. A method in accordance with Claim 89, wherein said satellite navigation system comprises GPS.

Claim 91. A method in accordance with Claim 89, wherein said satellite navigation system comprises DGPS.

Claim 92. A device for wrapping a bale of harvested agricultural produce consisting essentially of cut crop, which device comprises wrapping means for wrapping at least one layer of a pliant film of material completely to surround said bale of cut crop on all sides thereof with said film having its interior layer in direct contact with substantially the entire outer surface of said bale of cut crop, and label applying means for automatically applying a label to said film which is supported against said cut crop therein, said label comprising identifying information relative to said bale.

Claim 93. A device in accordance with Claim 92, wherein said label comprises a self-adhesive label.

Claim 94. A device in accordance with Claim 92, wherein said label applying means comprises a label dispensing unit and a pressing unit for pressing said label against said film while said film is bearing against said cut crop under said film.

Claim 95. A device in accordance with Claim 92, which comprises a stand, said wrapping means and said label applying means being supported by said stand, said label applying means being arranged on said stand in an articulating manner.

Claim 96. A device in accordance with Claim 92, which comprises a film cutting-and-clamping device which is coupled with said label applying means.

Claim 97. A device in accordance with Claim 92, which comprises a bale discharge device, said label applying means being coupled with said bale discharge device.

Claim 98. A device in accordance with Claim 92, wherein said label applying means comprises a pressing element which presses said label against the surface of said film while bearing against the cut crop back of said film when said bale is at least substantially wrapped with said film.

Claim 99. A device in accordance with Claim 92 wherein said label applying means comprises label imprinting means consisting of means for printing symbols or marks or electronically captured data or any combination thereof on said film.

Claim 100. A device in accordance with Claim 92, wherein said label applying means comprises a mechanical pressing device.

Claim 101. A device in accordance with Claim 92, wherein said label applying means comprises an electronic pressing device.

Claim 102. A device in accordance with Claim 92, wherein said label applying means consist of imprinting means for directly applying symbols or marks or electronically captured data or any combination thereof to said film.

Claim 103. A device in accordance with Claim 92, wherein said label applying means comprises control means for controlling the location that said label is applied to said film.

Claim 104. A device in accordance with Claim 92, wherein said wrapping means comprises a sensor that determines the extent that said bale has been wrapped with said film.

Claim 105. A method of wrapping a bale composed of an agricultural product consisting essentially of cut crop which comprises the steps of entirely wrapping said bale with a film so

that said bale is surrounded on all of its sides by said film and the entire interior of said film is substantially completely in continuous contact with substantially the entire outer surface of said cut crop in said bale, and applying identifying information to said film which relates uniquely to the identity of said bale including the manner that said bale is wrapped with said film.

Claim 106. A method in accordance with Claim 105, comprising controlling the applying of identifying information to said film so that said information includes the number of revolutions said bale has been subjected to in order to place said identifying information at the desired location on said bale.

Claim 107. A method in accordance with Claim 105, which comprises discharging said bale from supporting means for said bale for supporting said bale while it is being wrapped with said film and the step of applying of identifying information to said film being coordinated with said discharging of said bale from said supporting means.

Claim 108. A method in accordance with Claim 105, wherein said identifying information is applied to said film while said bale is relatively at a rest.

Claim 109. A method in accordance with Claim 108, wherein said identifying information is applied to said film by an ink-jet printer.

Claim 110. A method in accordance with Claim 108, wherein said identifying information is applied to said film by electronic printing.

Claim 111. A method in accordance with Claim 105, wherein said film is substantially transparent, said identifying information being applied to said film in such a manner that it is subsequently covered by said film while still being detectable through said film.

Claim 112. A method in accordance with Claim 105, wherein said identifying information is on a self-adhesive label, said self-adhesive label fastening said film to said bale.

Claim 113. A method in accordance with Claim 105, wherein said identifying information is applied to said film by an adhesive which is not caused to adhere to said film until after a label having said adhesive thereon is placed on said film.

Claim 114. A method in accordance with Claim 105, wherein said identifying information is pre-printed on a self-adhesive label.

Claim 115. A method in accordance with Claim 105, wherein said film is a self-adhesive film and said identifying information is imprinted on said film.

Claim 116. A method in accordance with Claim 105, wherein said identifying information is imprinted on labels before being applied to said film.

Claim 117. A method in accordance with Claim 105, wherein said identifying information applied to said film also relates to characteristics of the bale being wrapped.

Claim 118. A method in accordance with Claim 105 wherein said identifying information is controlled remotely and recognized by electronic data recording systems.

Claim 119. A method in accordance with Claim 105, wherein said identifying information includes information of the location of said bale as determined by a satellite navigation system.

Claim 120. A method of wrapping a bale composed of an agricultural product which consists essentially of cut crop, the method comprising the steps of entirely wrapping said bale of cut crop with a film so that it is surrounded on all sides by said film and the interior of said film is in substantially continuous contact with said cut crop, and applying identifying information to said film which relates to at least one characteristic consisting of at least one of the following characteristics: the number of layers of film wrapping said bale or the location of said bale.